



WELFARE REFORM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH)

[PATH](#) replaced the former Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program statewide on January 1, 2013. PATH is Michigan's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families work participation program for Family Independence Program (FIP) applicants and recipients.

- PATH is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) State of Michigan, and Michigan Works! Agencies. Twenty-five Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) operate the state's PATH programs.
- PATH features a 21-day assessment period for clients to identify employment barriers and to allow caseworkers from DHS and MWAs time to connect clients with the help and resources needed for barrier resolution.
- The 21-day assessment coursework and full PATH curriculum is critical in helping clients find employment, particularly those who have been unemployed long-term or have difficulties sustaining employment.
- PATH uses three key metrics to track and determine how well clients are overcoming their challenges and transitioning to self-sufficiency: work participation rates, barrier identification and employment opportunities.

*Previous Funding and Participant Data for JET**

Fiscal Year	Funding**	Participants Served	Participants Trained
2007	\$109,119,484	75,117	6,866
2008	\$112,742,083	83,775	8,046
2009	\$102,503,869	83,001	14,745
2010	\$ 98,745,535	77,817	15,692
2011	\$ 84,098,000	78,518	14,952
2012	\$ 79,353,560	72,193	
2013***	\$ 75,583,000	43,318	

* PATH replaced JET effective January 1, 2013

** Funding sources include federal TANF, State GF/GP, and WIA Statewide Activities.

*** Participants Served and Participants Trained data is for 10/1/12 through 12/31/12

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PATH Challenges

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, reauthorized TANF programs. Federal regulations finalized in 2008 provide strict definitions of allowable work participation activities, specific required hours in the allowable activities, and require that at least 50 percent of a state's public assistance recipients meet the work participation requirements.

Adequate funding for PATH is vital because of the robust services the program offers, and the strict verification and reporting standards required for federal work participation measurements. While the number of JET participants fell nearly 4 percent between 2007 and 2012, funding levels were reduced over 27 percent during the same period plus a further 5 percent in Fiscal Year 2013. In order to provide effective and efficient barrier reduction, employment, and self-sufficiency achievement services successfully to Michigan's public assistance recipients, additional funding is crucial for direct case management and supportive services.

Additional Welfare Reform Programs and Initiatives

Currently, the Welfare Reform Section also oversees the following programs and initiatives:

Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, which support the state's public labor exchange system; Food Assistance Employment & Training for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents; Foster Youth Summer Employment Program which targets youth aging out of foster care; Michigan Earn and Learn Initiative which provides transitional jobs programs for low-income, disconnected at-risk young adults (18-24 years old), returning citizens, and other long-term unemployed adults in select disadvantaged urban areas; and miscellaneous other programs.